

6th District Updates

Fearey's First Edition

The focus of this issue of the 6th District Updates is the summary from the **"Key Indicators of Community Change" report**. This is such an important report, especially considering the number of established neighborhoods and neighborhood/homeowner associations that are in District 6, that I felt it was important to take the space necessary to summarize parts of it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Metropolitan Planning Department for all of their hard work in compiling the report. I would also like to encourage everyone to look at the entire report on the City's web site.

National Night Out

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who organized a National Night Out event. I hope the evening was successful and fun.

Although I did make it to several of the gatherings, I was unable to attend all of them. As of my last unofficial count, District VI had the most registered parties with over 40. The attendance on different blocks ranged from a few to over 50. Each one, however, was an important reminder that meeting and staying connected with our neighbors sends a strong message that we watch out for the safety of

each other and everyone's property. By working together we can "Take a Bite Out of Crime."

Again, I commend your efforts in organizing your neighborhood's involvement in National Night Out. I hope you will plan an event again next year and than I will get to see you then.



Sixth District Updates on the Internet

Sixth District Updates is now available on the web. This is our way of trying to keep the lines of communication open between the Council Member, the Neighborhood Assistant, and the citizens of District VI. Terri Dozal and Sharon Fearey are putting together a DAB 6 Newsletter

on a quarterly basis and linking it to Sharon's city website. To access the site go to www.wichita.gov. then to Sharon Fearey; District 6 Advisory Board; and DAB 6 Newsletter. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for information you would like to see

included, please let us know by e-mail or by phone at 303-8042. If you don't have access to the web at home, computers are available at the Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall and all public libraries. We will also have some printed copies available at Evergreen.

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Key Indicators of Community Change

published by the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department.

The following is a summary of the July 2002, Key Indicators of community Change, published by the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department. This report continues to monitor and measure progress towards the achievement of key goals and objectives contained in the Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan, Preparing for Change. Goals have been set to help shape the future growth and development of the metropolitan area over the next 30 years. This document helps evaluate how we are doing in meeting those goals.

The two that are probably the most important to the 6th District regard **Neighborhood Revitalization and Parks and Recreation.**

Neighborhood Revitalization: Infill and redevelopment activity in the residential enhancement areas:

Large portions of the 6th District are classified in one of three categories. “Conservation” areas are basically sound, but need to be protected from future structural and market decline. “Revitalization” areas are currently experiencing some level of structural and market decline. “Re-establishment” areas are experiencing structural, market, and community decline to a level where large-scale interventions are needed to create economic and social stability. Neighborhoods falling under the Conservation category include Riverside, North Riverside, Pleasant Valley and a small part of Historic Midtown; the Revitalization category includes most of Historic Midtown and areas to the North from Broadway to the railroad tracks, and much of the River-view area. We have no neighborhoods classified as Re-establishment areas and have some neighborhoods including the Moorings, Harbour Isle, part of River-view, Benjamin Hills and Old Town that are not classified as having any of these type of needs.

The Comprehensive Plan encourages residential infill development. Neighborhood residential reinvestment

will be reflected in appraised residential property values. The net number of housing units is also an indicator of residential reinvestment and neighborhood stability. Between 1998 and 2001, overall appraised values per residential property increased in both the Conservation (7.5%) and Revitalization (6.2%) areas, but declined 3% in the Re-establishment area. Valued citywide, however, increased by approximately 15% during this period. Some of this may be attributed to the annexation of developed, upscale residential areas.

Between June 2001 and June 2002, overall appraised values per residential property increased by 2.5% in the Conservation area, by 4.4% in the Revitalization area and by 1.8% in the Re-establishment area compared to an overall citywide increase of 4.2%.

Data shows that only the Conservation area has experienced a trend of net increases in housing units (440 units) since 1997. Much of this increase was scattered throughout the Conservation area. Both the Revitalization and Re-establishment areas experienced net housing unit losses (-29 units and -64 units respectively) over the last five years. The most severe losses, however, were experienced in 1996. The actual rate of housing unit loss in the Re-establishment area has stabilized somewhat since 1997.

In the Revitalization area, net gains occurred in annual housing unit changes since 1998, but these gains are trending downwards. Many of the decreases in housing units occurred in specific areas such as the Ice Arena and Kellogg expansion and not in District VI.

***Parks and Recreation* Availability of public parks, trails, and open spaces**

The Park and Open Space Master Plan for Wichita-Sedgwick County, adopted in 1996 as an element of the Comprehensive Plan, has established Wichita’s minimum park standard goal at 15 acres/1,000 residents. The Comprehensive Plan and Park and Open Space Master Plan call for continued

development of a system of greenways, natural areas and landscaped corridors linking people to places. A community survey conducted as part of the 1999 Parks and Recreation Facilities Study revealed that biking/jogging trails were rated as the top priority for new facility development by 79.5% of survey respondents.

While the amount of parkland is increasing, it is still short of the targeted standard by 1.5 areas/1,000 residents. Most of the increase in additional park acreage since 1996 occurred in the regional park and open space categories. Within the last two years, 86% of all new park acreage has been of the regional type, making that acreage almost twice the original target, while acreage remains notably below the targeted standards (ranging from 36% to 97% below) in the playground, neighborhood, community and greenway/open space park categories. The area has approximately 69 miles of bike paths/greenways and 24 miles of nature/fitness trails. Based on targets set in the 1996 Plan, an additional 345 miles of proposed greenway improvements have yet to be developed.

Since 2000, there has been an 11% increase in the amount of platted private reserve land in Wichita. Although most of this acreage in Wichita has not been created primarily for recreation use, these privately held properties often provide some level of passive, recreational opportunities for adjacent landowners. Since the character of these private recreation reserve areas fits the greenway/open space classification, they could help alleviate to some extent the public demand for additional acreage in the greenway/open space park category. Homeowner associations own approximately 1,397.2 acres of this platted private reserve acreage.

Other categories contained within this report include Housing, Economic Growth, Agriculture, Transportation, and the Environment. To view the entire report, please visit the City’s website at www.wichita.gov and go to the Planning Department.

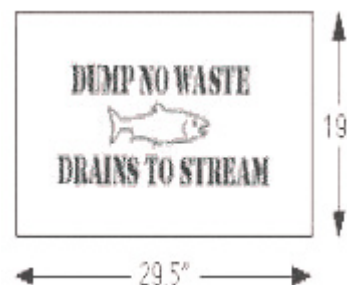
Clean River Relay

The City of Wichita's Arkansas River Advisory Committee is in the process of coordinating events to be held during the month of October for celebration of the "Year of Clean Water" which is in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act. The Committee has established a goal of recruiting neighborhoods to stencil or mark storm water inlet covers sometime between October 18 and November 23. This effort is being dubbed the Clean River Relay. The goal of this effort is to create awareness and educate residents that they can prevent pollution into our river and streams by keeping chemicals and unwanted materials out of the storm

drains. Only rain should go to the drain! This activity will complement the Public Works Department's program which uses storm drain covers with similar language on all new and replacement storm drain covers.

At the end of August, the City Manager's Office mailed letters to area neighborhood and homeowner associations across our community inviting participation in the relay. Relay events are being registered with the Environmental Health Dept. To date, seven neighborhoods have made a commitment to participate.

Example of marker and stencil follow



What's happening?

Arkansas Avenue will be overlaid between 29th and 37th Street North with an ultra-thin asphalt overlay, like was done south of 29th. This will be included in the 2003 Maintenance Program and constructed next summer.



Bids were taken July 12 for relocation of the City—owned utilities (water and storm sewer lines) at the 9th, 10th, 11th and 15th Street crossings of the elevated central rail corridor. Work is set to begin within 20 days of Council approval of the resulting contract. The next step will be constructing cul-de-sacs on those streets, and a temporary diverter for rail traffic. The contract for this work is anticipated to be let sometime in the fall of 2002. The

project will ultimately consolidate the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe and Union Pacific railroad lines into one railway between Santa Fe and Mead, elevated beginning at Douglas and returning to grade at 17th Street.



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Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program

City of Wichita **Housing Services** Department will be accepting applications for the Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program during the month of January. Rental properties must have 1-7 units and be located in the designated Local Investment Area for zip codes 67214 and 67203. The monthly payments for the 4% loans are deferred for 2 years. The maximum amount of assistance is \$10,000/unit for multi-family projects and \$15,000 for single-family. Once units are rehabilitated, low-moderate income households must occupy 51% of the units. Projects must comply with lead-base paint regulations. Call for Applications at the Housing Services Department at 332 Riverview or call 268-4313.

6th District North Branch Library's Info

The "farewell" parties at Marina and Minisa will be held Saturday, Oct 26. Minisa will close at end of business day. The Collections can begin moving that following week. Marina will stay open through Sunday, November 3. but will then close so that collections can be moved. The private preview opening at Evergreen is planned for Friday, November 15.

The public **grand opening/open house** will be Saturday November 16 continuing into Sunday the 17th.

Library hours at the new location have been set as Monday through Thursday 10am-9pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm and Sundays 1-5pm.





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*Customer Service Above and
Beyond*

Have you noticed that the west Kellogg bridge over the floodway at I-235 has been remarked from two to three lanes? This should help both the flow of traffic in the area and the safety at the interchange.

Heart of Wichita Lender Pool Participation

In recent years, through operation of the HOMEownership 80 program, the City's first-time home buyer assistance program, Housing Services Staff has observed an increasing need for mortgage credit availability for first time home buyers accessing the program.

Some potential buyers have sufficient income to afford the monthly payments associated with a home loan. However, in some cases, these families do not have a credit score sufficient to meet lender standards, due to insufficient credit history.

Some of these families have attempted to obtain mortgage credit from sub-prime or predatory lenders, which is not acceptable under the HOMEownership 80 program.

The Heart of Wichita Housing Fund has been created in order to provide the additional source of Mortgage Credit described above. Participants in the HOWHF include INTRUST, Capitol Federal Savings, Commercial Federal, Hillcrest, Emprise, Central Bank and Trust, Security Savings, Fidelity Banks and Community Housing Services. The purpose of the HOWHF is to create a mortgage loan pool, whereby lenders can participate on a pro-rata basis per loan, and thereby reduce lender risk. The underwriting standards applicable to the lender pool will provide for additional flexibility with respect to credit analysis and evaluation.

Community Housing Services (CHS) will participate as the loan originator on behalf of the fund. CHS is a full cycle lender affiliated with Neighborworks and has the expertise necessary to originate loans on behalf of the fund. CHS will also provide homeownership training for loan fund applicants, and will service the loans originated on behalf of the fund. CHS will also provide financial and homeownership counseling to homebuyers utilizing the fund, following home purchase.

The City will provide HOMEownership 80 assistance to buyers applying for mortgage credit through the fund, and will require participation in the Maintenance Reserve program.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)



The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility is moving to a new location. The grand opening of Sedgwick County's new HHW facility is October 5, 2022, at 801 Stillwell. The new facility will have a Swap 'n Shop area to help with your needs of small amounts of paint, fertilizers, or household cleaners. If they have an item you can use, you are welcome to take if **FREE OF CHARGE!** The new hours of operation are 9-7 Tuesday and Thursday; 9-4 Wednesday and Friday; and 9-3 on Saturday. The phone number is 660-7464.

Changes at the Health Department

Administration of the health department transitioned from the City of Wichita to Sedgwick County on January 1, 2002. What was formerly the joint Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Community Health has become two entities. The Sedgwick Co. health Department and the City of Wichita Department of Environmental Health.

Since the department is no longer a joint City-county department, the jointly appointed Board of Health was no longer needed. By state statute, the Sedgwick county Board of County Commissioners became the Sedgwick Co. Board of Health. However the County Commissioners appointed immediately the current members to the Sedgwick Co. Advisory Board of Health to assist with recommendations on public health matters. Donna Sweet, M.D. chairs the Advisory Board of Health.

The Sedgwick County Health Department includes the functions of health education, behavioral health, information technology, all clinical and preventive health services, disease surveillance, laboratory, and associated administrative support. The City of Wichita manages the Department of Environmental Health, which includes food protection, air and water quality, childcare licensure, code enforcement and animal control.

Both the City and County public health offices remain in the same building at 1900 E, Ninth Street and the seven health stations. The public will receive the same high level of services as always. The new phone number for the Sedgwick County Health Department is (316) 660-7300, while the city of Wichita Environmental Health phone number remains (316) 268-8351.